

# **3 FAH-2 H-400 Appendix J 1700**

## **FSN-1700 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

*(TL:FSNH-17; 2-28-94)*

This group includes all classes of positions the duties of which are to advise on, supervise, or perform specialist, technical, or related clerical work in the scientific affairs, geographic, or agricultural research fields.

Series of classes included in this group are:

Scientific Affairs Series	FSN-1705
Geographic Series	FSN-1710
Agricultural Research Series	FSN-1715

## **FSN-1705 SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS SERIES**

This series includes positions the duties of which are concerned primarily with information gathering, research, and reporting of developments in the field of the physical and natural sciences and technology. Subject matter dealt which includes, but is not limited to, such aspects as the status of scientific research and development and the host government's policies and programs pertaining thereto, specific developments in such areas as pure science, atomic energy, aerospace, industrial technology, oceanology, and the administration of science and technology programs. Additional functions performed include researching and responding to a variety of inquiries concerning scientific developments in the host country as well as furnishing information about U.S. science policies and programs, facilitating contacts between visiting U.S. scientists and official visitors and host country officials, processing and monitoring research grant assistance, developing and maintaining a variety of contacts within the scientific community, and performing related functions.

In classifying positions in the Scientific Affairs Series particular attention should be given to the following classification factors:

1. The nature, scope, and complexity of the reporting function ranging from information gathering and reporting of limited scope and difficulty to a broad range of factual and analytical reports requiring technical knowledge and understanding of scientific and technological developments, drawing on a variety of published and unpublished sources, and often requiring the development and maintenance of high-level contacts.
2. The level, diversity, and purpose of outside contacts.
3. The extent to which the employee is regarded as a true professional expert in own field to the point that considerable reliance is placed upon professional judgment and acumen and upon the advice the employee renders on a variety of important matters.
4. Latitude for independent action and exercise of judgment.
5. Qualifications requirements.

The Scientific Affairs Series provides for four levels of difficulty and responsibility of work as follows:

Scientific Affairs Specialist	FSN-1705-12
Scientific Affairs Specialist	FSN-1705-11
Scientific Affairs Assistant	FSN-1705-9
Scientific Affairs Assistant	FSN-1705-8

# **FSN-1705-12 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Scientific Affairs Specialist

**SERIES:** Scientific Affairs  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1705-12

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

As a recognized expert in the field of science and technology, performs the full range of research, reporting, advisory, and related functions in the field of science and technology in a country which plays an important role in this field. May supervise one or two lower grade local employees.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In a country which plays an important role in the field of science and technology, obtains information from published and unpublished sources and prepares a broad range of factual and analytical reports, such as reports on the host government's policies, plans, and programs for scientific and technological development and their implementation and developments in such specific areas as scientific administration, pure science, atomic energy, aerospace, industrial technology, transportation, and oceanology. Reports on research and development programs and evaluates research capabilities of universities and technical institutions. Advises the Science Attaché on effective means of achieving desired U.S. goals in the field of science and technology, particularly approaches to and relationships with the scientific community. Makes suggestions to the Science Attache regarding current and proposed programs of U.S. Government agencies in the field of science and technology. Facilitates contacts between visiting U.S. scientists and official visitors and host government officials and heads of scientific institutions and organizations. Provides background briefings, arranges appointments, and often accompanies such visitors. May act as an interpreter. In performing the foregoing duties, attends professional meetings, undertakes extensive field travel, reviews a variety of published materials including newspapers, technical journals, government reports, and proceedings of scientific bodies. Develops and maintains a broad range of high-level contacts with government agencies, institutions of higher learning, research organizations, and private individuals influential in scientific and technological affairs. Receives, researches, and replies to a variety of questions relating to scientific and technological affairs received by the post, including U.S. Government agencies, academic institutions, industrial organizations, and individuals in the host country. May occasionally translate highly technical and scientific material into English and the applicable foreign language. In the absence of the Science Attaché, assumes responsibility for complying with required reporting requirements and related aspects of office operations.

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in one of the Physical or Natural Sciences. Completion of one or more years of post-graduate study is highly desirable.

**EXPERIENCE:** From six to eight years of progressively responsible experience in the field of science and technology, such as teaching, applied or pure research, or other closely related field.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 4 (fluent) in English is required.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A thorough knowledge of scientific and technological programs, institutions, and key figures in the scientific community of the host country. A thorough knowledge of U.S. goals, programs, and reporting requirements and procedures in the field of science and technology vis-a-vis the host country.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to develop and maintain an extensive range of high-level contacts. Ability to inter-relate developments in the field of science and technology to political, economic, social, and educational forces and factors at work in the host country. Ability to plan, organize, and execute complex research projects and to prepare precise and accurate factual and analytical reports. Ability to render advice with detachment and objectivity.

## **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

This is the top level for FSN positions in the broad field of science and technology. Such positions are relative few in number and no more than one such position in the Scientific Affairs Series can normally be justified even in a large Office of Science and Technology.

Positions of Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-12 may or may not involve supervision over others. Supervisory responsibility, where it exists, is a strengthening factor, but does not of itself constitute the basis for a FSN-12 allocation.

An employee at this level is a recognized expert in own field and performs the full range of research, reporting, advisory, and related services with wide latitude for independent action. Substantial reliance is placed on professional acumen and judgment in advising American officers on a variety of important matters, such as how best to achieve stated objectives within the institutional milieu of the host country.

The range of subject matter reported upon is extensive and frequently complex. Much of the reporting, however, falls within a prescribed reporting schedule and the basic content of such reports is prescribed. Completed reports are reviewed by an American officer for completeness and soundness of conclusions. Considerable judgment is exercised in the analysis and interpretation of information and in evaluating the research capabilities of educational institutions. The development and maintenance of an extensive range of outside contacts within the scientific community is a significant factor.

At this level the host country involved plays an important role in the field of scientific and technological development.

Positions of Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-12 differ from Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-11 in that the employee, by virtue of professional expertise, plays an important advisory role in advising American officers on a variety of important matters. At the FSN-12 level, the employee is likely to be given somewhat greater latitude in carrying out assigned responsibilities, and in most instances, the scope of the reporting is greater.

# **FSN-1705-11 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Scientific Affairs Specialist

**SERIES:** Scientific Affairs  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1705-11

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

In a country where scientific and technological developments are of major dimensions serves as one of two types of professional assistants to a Science Attaché with responsibility for reporting on a major segment of the field or, in a country where such developments are of lesser dimensions serves as the principal assistant to a Science Attaché.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Type A:** In a country where scientific and technological developments are of major dimensions performs reporting and related functions pertaining to a major segment of the overall field of reporting, such as energy, including nuclear energy, and environmental protection and space research. Obtains information from published and unpublished sources and prepares factual and analytical reports within the employee's assigned field on current and future developments, including their national as well as international significance.

Receives, researches, and replies to a variety of inquiries concerning scientific developments in the host country as well as information concerning U.S. science policies and programs.

Facilitates contacts between visiting U.S. scientists and official visitors and host country officials and representatives of academic, scientific, and research organizations. Provides background briefings, arranges appointments, often accompanies such visitors, and may act as an interpreter.

In performing the foregoing duties attends professional meetings, undertakes solo field travel, reviews published materials including newspapers, technical journals, government reports, etc. and develops and maintains extensive contacts at a relatively high level with government agencies, academic institutions, research organizations and private individuals.

**Type B:** In a country where scientific and technological developments are of appreciable importance serves as the principal FSN assistant to a Science Attaché. Performs the full range of factual and analytical reporting and the same basic kind of related information and related services as described under Type A above. In both instances an employee may on occasion translate highly technical and scientific material into English or into the applicable foreign language.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in one of the Physical or Natural Sciences.

**EXPERIENCE:** From five to seven years of progressively responsible experience in the field of science and technology, such as teaching, applied or pure research, or other closely related fields.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 4 (fluent) in English is required.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A thorough knowledge within his assigned field of scientific and technological programs, institutions, and key figures in the scientific community of the host country. A thorough knowledge of U.S. goals, programs, and reporting requirements and procedures in the field of science and technology vis-a-vis the host country.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to develop and maintain an extensive range of high-level contacts. Ability to interrelate developments in the field of science and technology to political, economic, social, and educational forces and factors at work in the host country. Ability to plan, organize, and execute complex research projects and to prepare precise and accurate factual and analytical reports.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

Positions of Scientific Specialist FSN-11 are normally non-supervisory in nature. Supervision over others is merely a strengthening factor where it exists. Allocation to grade FSN-11 rests primarily on the scope and complexity of the reporting, the major emphasis being on analytical reporting requiring the exercise of judgment in assessing the significance and implications of matters reported upon. In a relatively large Office of Science and Technology the scope and volume of the reporting activity may be such as to warrant dividing the field between two Scientific Affairs Specialists FSN-11. In a smaller office, responsibility for analytical reporting may be vested in a single FSN employee. However, the level of difficulty, responsibility for developing and maintaining outside contacts, and exercise of judgment are equivalent. In both instances scientific and technological developments in the host country are of appreciable significance in the international setting.

Most reports fall within a prescribed reporting schedule, although there is scope for considerable voluntary reporting. The basic content of prescribed reports is well-defined. Reports are reviewed by a Science Attaché for completeness and soundness of conclusions. The Interagency FSN Positions Classification Standards do not provide for positions of Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-10. However, in comparison with related positions, such as Geographic Specialist FSN-10, positions of Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-11 differ in that the employee covers a broader field of reporting, the main thrust is on analytical reporting, and there is greater scope for the exercise of independent judgment. At the FSN-10 level the main thrust is on factual reporting, the scope of reporting is more confined, e.g., geographic matters and map procurement, and while judgment is applied, there is lesser opportunity to interpret the significance of the matters reported upon. In contrast to positions of Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-9, positions of Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-11 are even more clearly distinguished in terms of scope, complexity, independent analysis of data, maintenance of more extensive and higher-level contacts and related classification factors.



# **FSN-1705-9 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Scientific Affairs Assistant

**SERIES:** Scientific Affairs  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1705-9

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

In a country where scientific and technological developments are of appreciable importance provides information gathering, research, reporting, and related services of moderate scope and difficulty in the field of science and technology.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In a country where scientific and technological developments are of appreciable importance, obtains information from a variety of published and unpublished sources and prepares basically factual reports involving relatively little independent analysis within a limited field of science and technology, such as the field of social welfare and public health, or programs in which the U.S. National Science Foundation has an interest. For example, prepares a report on the host government's policies, plans, and programs concerning family counseling services, regional health clinics and services, or related subject matter.

Provides background information for visiting officials, arranges appointments, coordinates travel itineraries, and may accompany such visitors and serve as an interpreter. Furnishes information, often in the form of published materials, to organizations and individuals concerning relevant programs and developments in the U.S. within the employee's assigned field of competence.

May assist applicants for U.S. Government grant assistance by informing them of application requirements, furnishing relevant materials, providing guidance on the formulation of project proposals. Monitors and reports on the status of approved project grants, processes requests for extensions or increases in grant assistance, and related administrative details. Make a preliminary review of projects and budget outlays proposed by U.S. Government agencies and makes suggestions as to the feasibility of such projects in the light of local conditions.

In performing the foregoing duties, reviews the daily press, professional journals, government reports, and related sources. Attends professional meetings and maintains working level contacts with government officials, representatives of scientific and academic institutions. Undertakes field travel.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in one of the Physical or Natural Sciences.

**EXPERIENCE:** From three to five years of progressively responsible experience in the field of science and technology, such as teaching, applied or pure research, or other closely related field.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 4 (fluent) in English is required.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A good working knowledge of the state of scientific and technological development in the host country. A good working knowledge of internal reporting requirements and procedures.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to develop and maintain a limited range of contacts in the scientific community. Ability to carry out moderately difficult research projects and prepare precise and accurate factual reports.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

Positions of Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-9 are concerned with factual reporting with primary reliance being placed on published sources, although the employee is expected to develop and maintain outside working level contacts in order to obtain or verify information. The basic content of reports is well-defined, technical guidance is provided where necessary over work in process, and completed reports are reviewed by higher authority. Judgment is exercised, however, in evaluating sources of data and in the actual preparation of reports. The scope of the reporting activity is quite limited.

Positions of Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-9 differ from those of Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-8 in that the latter positions are oriented more to providing information gathering and research assistance to a higher grade employee. Reporting assignments are made pursuant to specific instructions, are of limited scope and complexity, and involve working primarily from published sources. Employees in the Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-9 category have great scope for the exercise of judgment and are likely to have a wider range of outside contacts. Reports are broader in scope and there is wider latitude in executing reporting assignments.

# **FSN-1705-8 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Scientific Affairs Assistant

**SERIES:** Scientific Affairs  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1705-8

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

Serves as a research and general assistant to a Science Attache or higher-grade FSN employee and provides information gathering, research, and related services of intermediate scope and difficulty in the field of science and technology.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In accordance with well-defined instructions obtains information from largely published sources and prepares factual reports of limited scope, such as a report descriptive of educational offerings in the field of the physical sciences, qualifications of faculty members, and the nature and extent of host government support of such educational programs.

Prepares a quarterly newsletter focused on current developments in science and technology in the host country of likely interest to U.S. Government agencies. Prepares replies to a variety of inquiries concerning such developments. Reviews a variety of published material, such as technical journals or proceedings of scientific bodies, evaluates their pertinence, and selects items of probable interest to supervisory staff members. Submits such items in full or summary form together with evaluative comments.

Translates scientific and technical articles in full or summary form. May perform such auxiliary tasks as preparing periodic reports on the status of research grants, arranging travel itineraries and appointments for visiting officials, and acting as an interpreter.

Maintains working level contacts with government and academic institutions and research grants, arranging travel itineraries and appointments for visiting officials, and acting as an interpreter.

Maintains working level contacts with government and academic institutions and research organizations in order to obtain and verify information.

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in one of the Physical or Natural Sciences.

**EXPERIENCE:** Two for four years of progressively responsible experience in the field of science and technology, such as teaching, applied or pure research, or other closely related field.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 4 (fluent) in English is required.

**KNOWLEDGE:** General familiarity with the state of scientific and technological development in the host country. A good working knowledge of internal reporting requirements and procedures.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to maintain working level contacts of limited range. Ability to undertake research studies of intermediate scope and complexity and prepare precise and accurate factual reports.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

The Interagency FSN Position Classification Standards do not provide for a level of Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-7.

Positions of Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-8 are basically oriented to research and information gathering duties, primary reliance being placed upon published sources, although there is an element of maintaining working level contacts in order to clarify, verify, or obtain information. Guidelines for carrying out research and reporting assignments are prescribed in some detail and completed work is subject to review. However, employees must exercise judgment in evaluating sources of information and work process is carried out only under general supervision except as unusual problems arise.

## **FSN-1710 GEOGRAPHIC SERIES**

This Series includes positions the duties of which relate to a combination of reporting in the fields of physical geography and geodesy and the procurement of maps and cartographic publications pertaining thereto. In order to warrant allocation in the Geographic Series, positions must reflect a major emphasis on the reporting, in contrast to, the procurement function. The Interagency FSN Position Classification Standards provide for one level of difficulty and responsibility of work in this Series, namely Geographic Specialist, FSN-10. This basic standard should be used in classifying positions involving predominantly reporting in the fields of physical geography and geodesy.

Positions the duties of which are concerned only with publications procurement should be placed in the Publications Procurement Series and those which are concerned exclusively with map procurement should be placed in a Map Procurement Series.

In classifying positions in the Geographic Series, particular attention should be given to the following classification factors:

1. The nature, scope, and complexity of the reporting function ranging from information gathering and reporting of limited scope and difficulty to a broad range of factual and analytical reports requiring technical knowledge and understanding of scientific and technological developments, drawing on a variety of published and unpublished sources, and often requiring the development and maintenance of high-level contacts.

2. The level, diversity, and purpose of outside contacts.

3. The extent to which the employee is regarded as a true professional expert in own field to the point that considerable reliance is placed upon professional judgment and acumen and upon the advice the employee renders on a variety of important matters.

4. Latitude for independent action and exercise of judgement.

5. Qualifications requirements.

# **FSN-1710-10 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Geographic Specialist

**SERIES:** Geographic  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1710-10

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

Reports on regional developments in the fields of physical geography and geodesy with particular reference to information needed for the compilation of maps and procures maps and related publications for the use of a number of U.S. Government agencies.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Prepares essentially factual reports, but including evaluative and analytical comments, on developments in the field of physical geography and allied sciences, with particular references pertinent to the compilation and revision of maps. The scope of such reporting embraces a prescribed geographic region. For example, prepares reports on the status of research, technology, organization, production, and personnel of government mapping agencies and commercial organizations.

Procures maps and publications relating to cartography, physical geography, and allied sciences.

Explores and, on occasion, negotiates agreements for the reciprocal exchange of maps and publications with academic, commercial, and governmental civilian and military mapping organizations.

Facilitates contacts for official visitors by providing background briefing, arranging appointments, accompanying such visitors, and acting as an interpreter. Translates technical articles germane to the employee's field.

In performing the foregoing responsibilities, develops and maintains senior-level contacts with representatives of government mapping agencies, academic institutions, and commercial organizations. Undertakes extensive solo field travel. Attends professional meetings. Reviews technical publications, bibliographies, and related published sources.

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in one of the Physical Geography, Cartography, Geodesy, or other closely related field of academic study.

**EXPERIENCE:** Four to six years of progressively responsible experience in teaching, research, or operations relating to physical geography, cartography, or other closely related field.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 4 (fluent) in English. Preferably Level 3 (good working knowledge) of two or more foreign languages used within the employee's assigned regional sphere of activity.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A good understanding of sources of information, particularly as regards map procurement, within the several countries involved. A thorough understanding of internal reporting and procurement requirements and procedures.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to develop and maintain an extensive range of senior-level contacts with governmental, academic, and commercial organizations. Ability to carryout relatively complex research projects and to prepare precise and accurate factual and analytical reports.

#### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

This is the top level for FSN positions in the field of cartographic procurement and reporting. The procurement of maps and publications is a lower level function and the allocation of such positions to this level rests on the professional qualifications required to perform the reporting function coupled with considerable independence in carrying out assigned responsibilities and outside contact aspects. The employee is given wide latitude in determining what information should be reported, especially if there is no American Geographic Officer assigned to the post. However, map and related publications procurement requirements are defined in some detail.

Positions at this level are of lesser weight than those of Scientific Affairs Specialist FSN-11 in that the reporting function is both more limited in scope and is primarily of a factual rather than an analytical nature. On the other hand, positions at this level are stronger in weight than positions in Scientific Affairs Assistant FSN-9 in that the employee has a regional area of responsibility and operates with considerably greater latitude in planning and executing assignments. The level of contacts is also likely to be somewhat higher and there is an element of negotiation involved, as in exploring and at times negotiating reciprocal agreements for the exchange of maps and related publications.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES:**

Because of the regional nature of positions at this level, the employee should be proficient in at least two, and preferably three or more, foreign languages employed in the various countries embraced by own regional sphere of activity.

Very few such positions will be found to exist at Foreign Service posts.

An employee at this level may supervise a lower grade Map Procurement Assistant.



## **FSN-1715 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERIES**

This series includes all positions the duties of which are to perform field and laboratory studies and research experiments in Entomology and other areas of U.S. supported agricultural research, and to review, evaluate, and report upon such research carried on by agricultural institutions and individual scientists in the host country.

The series includes:

Agricultural Research Specialist	FSN-1715-12
Agricultural Research Specialist	FSN-1715-10

# **FSN-1715-12 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Agricultural Research Specialist

**SERIES:** Agricultural Research  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1715-12

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

As a recognized expert in the field of agricultural research and development, performs important and responsible contact, evaluative, and advisory work relating to U.S. supported agricultural research programs and projects.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Develops and maintains a broad range of high-level contacts with organizations, institutions, and individual scientists in the host country engaged in agricultural research and development. Renders advice on fruitful areas of research and specific projects in relation to a program of U.S. supported agricultural research activity. Reviews and evaluates specific research proposals in the light of such criteria as the qualifications of the scientist or scientists involved, the availability and adequacy of research facilities, equipment, and materials, the probable time span for completion of the research, and the potential benefits to be derived therefrom, and submits own findings and recommendations to an American officer. Participates in subsequent negotiations and discussions with host country scientists and institutional heads relative to the award of research grants and contracts. Keeps in close touch with developments relative to ongoing grant-assisted research projects, evaluates progress, delineates problems encountered, and submits findings and recommendations to an American officer. Briefs visiting U.S. scientists and researchers regarding the state of agricultural research in the host country as well as the status of specific research programs and projects. Arranges field trips and appointments for such visitors and may accompany them in meeting with scientists and researchers of the host country.

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, or other field in agricultural science. Completion of three years of post-graduate study leading to a doctoral degree is highly desirable.

**EXPERIENCE:** From six to eight years of progressively responsible experience in agricultural research in such fields as entomology, plant pathology, biochemistry, genetics, or other closely related field.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A thorough knowledge of agricultural research programs, institutions, host government policies affecting agricultural development, and key figures in the agricultural research community in the host country. A thorough knowledge of USDA goals, programs, and procedures in the field of supporting agricultural research and development.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 4 (fluent) in English is required.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to develop and maintain an extensive range of high-level contacts. Ability to apply discriminating judgment in evaluating and advising on agricultural research matters. Ability to draft precise and accurate reports.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

Positions of this type are few in number and relatively unique. (NOTE - AID positions are not included in this group.) The work is carried out in a country where agriculture is of major importance and where intensive and extensive efforts are being made through agricultural research and development programs to increase and broaden agricultural productivity. Positions of this type do not involve agricultural reporting except as the employee prepares reports outlining own findings and recommendations. Rather the main thrust is on contributing advice and professional expertise in respect of fruitful areas of agricultural research.

At this level, the employee carries out duties with wide latitude. The broad outline of the U.S. grant-assisted research program and the basic approach to be pursued in its implementation are provided. Findings and recommendations are presented to and discussed with an Agricultural Attaché or equivalent officer of the USDA. The employee must exercise considerable judgment in evaluating proposals and in critically examining the status of ongoing research projects. The employee is required to establish and maintain a broad range of contacts, often at very senior levels, with government officials, heads of research institutes, department heads of universities, and similar organizations.

# **FSN-1715-10 INTERAGENCY POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS**

**GROUP:** Science and Technology  
**TITLE:** Agricultural Research Specialist

**SERIES:** Agricultural Research  
**LEVEL:** FSN-1715-10

## **BASIC FUNCTION:**

Plans and executes complex field and laboratory studies and research experiments in entomology.

## **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Conducts complex field and laboratory research studies with particular reference to locating and studying in field situations and under laboratory conditions the biology and ecology of various species of insects found to infest plant specimens and species in the United States. Suggests specific approaches and methodology for conducting such studies to an American entomologist. Designs and executes various controlled laboratory experiments which involve the systematic collection, recording, analysis, and interpretation of data and the preparation of reports outlining and evaluating the results achieved. Maintains laboratory facilities, equipment, insect colonies, and related materials in good order. May supervise a laboratory assistant. Keeps abreast of current technical developments in the field of entomology. Maintains contacts with scientists engaged in similar studies in research institutes and academic institutions.

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

**EDUCATION:** Possession of a collegiate degree in one of the Biological Sciences, preferably in Zoology with major study in Entomology.

**EXPERIENCE:** From four to six years of progressively responsible experience in agricultural research, teaching, or other closely related activity in entomology or related biological science.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A thorough professional knowledge of research methodology.

**LANGUAGE:** Level 3 (good working knowledge) of English is required.

**ABILITIES:** Ability to plan, organize, and execute field and laboratory research studies.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:**

Work is performed under the guidance and direction of an American entomologist who discusses research objectives, probable elements of difficulty, anticipated results to be obtained, and makes suggestions as to the approach to be followed in undertaking research projects. Completed work is reviewed for technical accuracy, judgment used in the analysis and interpretation of data, and the logic of conclusions reached. However, the employee must exercise considerable judgment in conducting research studies and proceeds independently during their execution except as unusual problems may arise. This is the top level for positions of this type.

**SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES:**

There are relatively few positions of this type.